MMR_0152 David Jones, Lone Star Region

November 5, 2024

Dear John Robert Coy, MMR 730 (MWR Central Indiana Division)

Thank you for your patience and constant badgering, [I, John Coy, have been known to twist an arm or two…] without which I probably would never have written this and missed the opportunity to take my place among my fellow model railroaders. Your written compilation will be an honor to all MMRs. Thank you again!

Perhaps there are still remnants at national headquarters of my HO scale railroad, “Rio Rico and Southern”, along with other evidence.

I joined the NMRA in January 1978. At this writing, I cannot begin to recall or relate to all of the friendships, knowledge, experiences, rewards and so much more that contributed to my life.

Model railroading has been an education in many fields. It offers more to be learned than any other ventures. Perhaps one of the best parts of the venture was the privilege and learning experiences of personally meeting many of the great names, authors and modelers who made the hobby what it has become.

Although I had enjoyed building a complete model railroad, received many awards for models, given clinics, judged model contests, written articles, and made many friendships, the greatest reward and recognition was receiving the Master Model Railroader certificate and plaque. I had hoped for and worked toward being one of the first 100 to receive the certificate, but life and duties held me back. I became number 152 in June of 1989.

Through the years, when I was active, I traveled throughout the country visiting many clubs, private layouts and conventions. I entered models related to all phases of the hobby in many convention contests. My only "0" scale model was a scratch-built gondola with fully working brakes for Lorell Joiner's layout in San Antonio, Texas. It won First Place and Best of Show at a San Antonio convention. My scratch-built steam locomotive and tender (fully detailed) won Second Place and Best Exhibit at a Kansas City National Convention and other awards.

The little 4' x 8' two-level original layout with full details, lighting and sound that became the subject of a clinic, magazine articles and my on-hands education of the hobby is long gone. What I hardly have time for now is a 2-1/2 ft. x 7 ft. shelf layout with a turn of the century little town in an agricultural area at the foot of a mountain range. It is fully detailed and lighted inside and outside of all structures. There are eight scratch-built structures and an 1800s Laws California (SP) turntable in front of the engine house.

Along the way, I was head of the LSR Achievement Program for three or four years and possibly the only, and certainly the first, program leader to have five MMRs to receive their awards in one year, and at a national convention.

Model Railroading is the most complete, involved, educational and enjoyable hobby to be experienced.

Thank you for including me in your registry with so many fellow railroaders.

Always a Model Railroader,

David Jones, MMR 152